

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/044,760

Examiner

V. Paul Harper

Applicant(s)

ROSS ET AL.

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/12/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7, 9-13, 15-21, 23, and 25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

V. Paul Harper
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2626

Examiner's Amendment / Reasons for Allowance

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mary Lou Wakimura on 3/23/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Begin amendments

Claim 1, on line 11, replace the phrase "goal; and" with --goal;--.

Claim 1, on line 13, replace the phrase "identified." with --identified; and--.

Claim 1, after line 13, add the phrase --wherein the response is a computer application program command based on the utterance representation.--.

Cancel claim 8.

Claim 17, on line 2, replace the phrase "a computer usable medium for" with --a computer for--.

Claim 17, on line 4, replace the phrase "the computer usable medium," with --the computer readable medium,--.

Claim 17, on line 16, replace the phrase "goal; and" with --goal;--.

Claim 17, on line 18, replace the phrase "identified." with --identified; and--.

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Claim 17, after line 18, add the phrase –wherein the response is a computer application program command based on the utterance representation.--.

Cancel claim 24.

Cancel claim 26.

End amendments

Reasons for allowance

2. Claims **1-5, 7, 9-13, 15-21, 23 and 25** are allowed.

It is noted that the closest prior art of record, Abella et al. (U.S. Patent 6,044,347) disclose methods for rule-based dialogue management using speech recognition, but Abella et al. do not teach generating an application specific goal derived from the utterance representation, wherein the application specific goal and the utterance representation are propositions comprising attribute-object-value triples, the proposition corresponding to the utterance representation being derived from a frame representation; and analyzing the utterance representation based on the application specific goal and a corresponding set of goal-directed rule's condition to the application specific goal that may be taken in a domain associated with the application specific goal; and generating a response based on the analysis of the utterance representation if ambiguous information is identified. Thus, independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are allowable over the prior art of record because the cited prior art alone or in combination, does not fairly suggest or disclose the claimed combination of features.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to V. Paul Harper whose telephone number is (571) 272-7605. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

3/23/06

V. Paul Harper
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2626

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Paul Harper", is written over the printed name and title.